

WATER WELL STANDARDS & CONTRACTORS' LICENSING BOARD MEETING

August 6, 2025

Tonny Beck, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. with roll call. The meeting was held at the DWEE, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Lincoln, NE, Room 031 LL. Copies of the agenda were emailed to board members and other interested parties prior to the meeting. The meeting was advertised on the Water Well Standards and Contractor's Licensing Board webpage on the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment website. The Open Meetings Act was posted at the front entrance of the room.

Item 1. Roll Call

PRESENT:	Tonny Beck	Laura Johnson
	Tara Wulfekoetter	Sue Lackey
	Mike Thompson	Lynn Webster
	Scott Grosch	Brian Whitesel

ABSENT: Daniel Mackin, Cody Christensen
OTHERS: Dave Miesbach, Lee Orton, Tim Sizer, Bill Allen, Pam Miller.

Item 2. Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Lackey moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Webster seconded the motion. Voting yes: Wulfekoetter, Grosch, Lackey, Johnson, Webster, Whitesel, Beck. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

Item 3. Consideration of Minutes of Board Meeting – June 4, 2025

Mr. Beck moved to adopt the minutes. Mr. Whitesel seconded the motion. Voting yes: Grosch, Webster, Whitesel, Beck, Wulfekoetter. Voting no: none. Abstain: Lackey, Johnson, Thompson. Motion carried.

Item 4. Continuing Education Requests

- 1- 2025 Great Plains Water Conference, Omaha, NE, by NE Water Center will be held September 18-19, 2025; Ann Briggs

Requests: 16.5 hrs. Recommended: 11 hrs.

Mr. Thompson, CEU Committee Chair, submitted the recommendations for board approval of CEU hours as stated. Voting yes: Webster, Whitesel, Lackey, Johnson, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson none. Motion carried.

Item 5. Program Report

Mr. Miesbach presented the program report that was included in the Board Packet. It outlined the declaratory orders/pre-notifications, violations, licensure information and testing information.

- Review of the program report.
- Update on staff inspection activities.
- Regulations are being finalized by legal.
- The NWDA is working on 2 new board members to replace Mr. Beck and Mr. Whitesel.
- A producer with iron bacteria problems was discussed.
- Test wells with turbidity issues affecting lab results were discussed.

Item 6. Legislative Report

- No changes to current program funding.

Item 7. Agency Reports

A. UNL – Conservation & Survey – Sue Lackey

- North Platte position was filled this month.
- Test holes are done for the NRDs and USGS/US Park Service in Valentine.
- Coring of tills through State Map grant.

B. Department of Water, Energy and Environment – Mike Thompson

- Handouts of statistical registration reports were reviewed by the Board.
- Registration fees are down 17% for the fiscal year. Which affects the decommissioning fund.
- A fee evaluation requested by management to have all fee-based programs be more self-sufficient. Proposal that registration fees be raised.

C. HHS – Division of Public Health – Tara Wulfekoetter

- Working on new fees for the lab.

D. DWEE-Drinking Water Program – Laura Johnson

- DWEE Merger Reorg
- DW and GW divisions split in two and both moved in under the CWO, Matt Manning
- Board Make up to stay as-is

- US Court of Appeals filed two motions regarding new National Primary Drinking Water Standards
 - PFAS - EPA has till 9/10 to file a motion or letter stating their position on the litigation.
 - This must include proposed changes to the rule from the May 14th update to only regulate PFOA and PFOS which may impact AWWA and other petitions legal challenge.
 - By 9/17 all parties must file briefing schedules for the remaining aspects of the suit.
 - LCRI - The court set a briefing schedule that runs from Sept 12th through Jan 30th, 2026.
- Village of Polk WHPA ordinance - well denial case summary

E. Natural Resources Districts – Lynn Webster

- Chemigation inspections
- Water Sampling
- Continued drought in the panhandle

Item 8. Public Comment

None

Item 9: Closed Session

At 11:00 a.m. Ms. Johnson made the motion to go into closed session to discuss licensees and prevent unnecessary harm to reputations. Mr. Webster seconded the motion. Voting yes: Webster, Whitesel, Lackey, Johnson, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried.

At 11:23 a.m. Mr. Beck made the motion to come out of closed session. Mr. Whitesel seconded the motion. Voting yes: Webster, Whitesel, Lackey, Johnson, Beck, Wulfekoetter, Grosch. Voting no: none. Abstain: Thompson. Motion carried. No actions were recommended during the closed session.

Item 10. Adjourn

Mr. Grosch moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Mike Thompson

September 3, 2025

Mike Thompson, Board Secretary

Date